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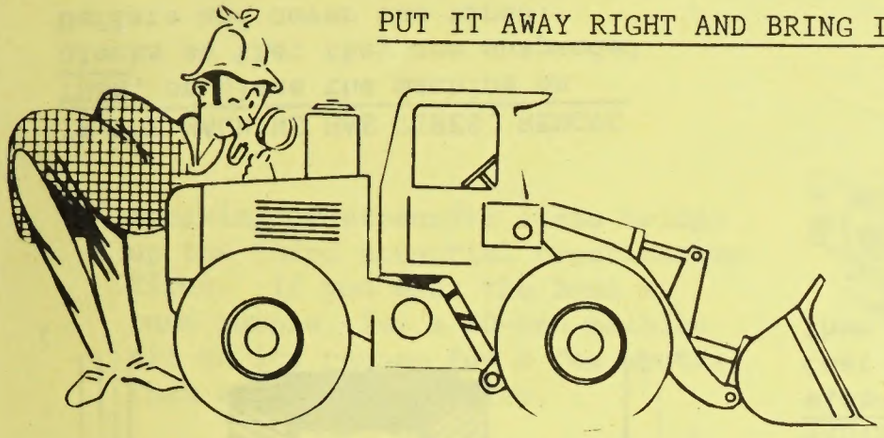
TECHNICAL NOTE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR – BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

TIPS ON STORING EQUIPMENT

PUT IT AWAY RIGHT AND BRING IT OUT READY TO ROLL



When you plan to put one of your machines in storage for a period of more than 30 days, there are a few simple rules to follow. First, make sure the place for storing equipment is dry and protected. And be certain the machine itself is thoroughly washed and cleaned.

Then, perform the following:

LUBRICATE THE MACHINE according to instructions in your maintenance manual.

DRAIN WATER FROM FUEL TANKS. Close the drain valves. In some cases it is desirable to drain all fuel from the system, and refill the tanks with several gallons of an approved flushing oil--a 50-50 mix of kerosene and light lubricating oil is acceptable. Then vent the system according to instructions.

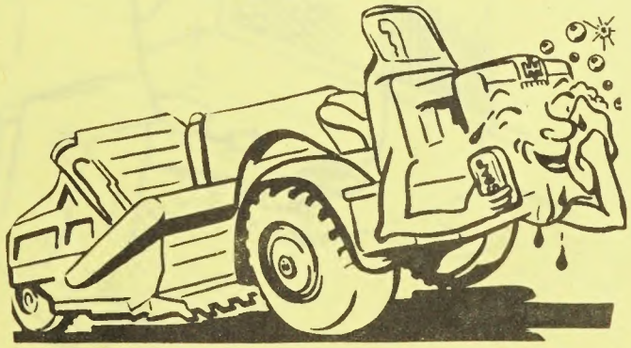
DRAIN TRANSMISSION OIL at operating temperature and install drain plugs. Fill with commercial preservative oil or new transmission fluid and operate the machine for several minutes, shifting frequently in all ranges. Remove breather and seal the opening.

SEAL THE EXHAUST PIPE, breather pipe and air intake pipe.

THOROUGHLY COAT MACHINED, unpainted surfaces with chassis grease.

OPEN AIR INTAKE DRAIN VALVES.

STORE BATTERIES in a dry place above freezing. Check to make sure they are fully charged at time of storing, and check frequently during storage to see that proper charge is maintained.



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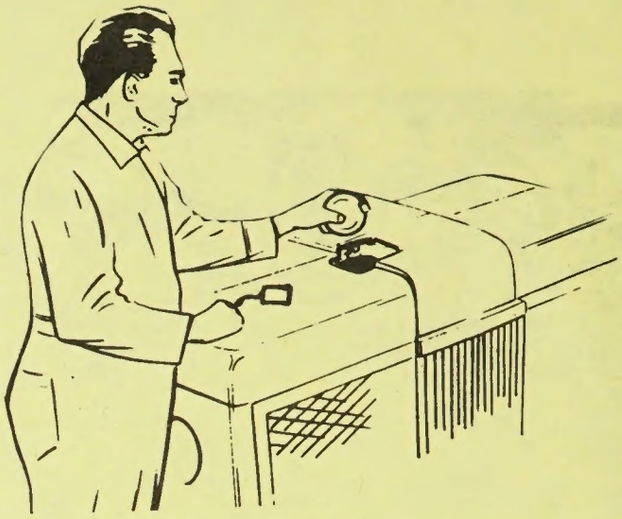
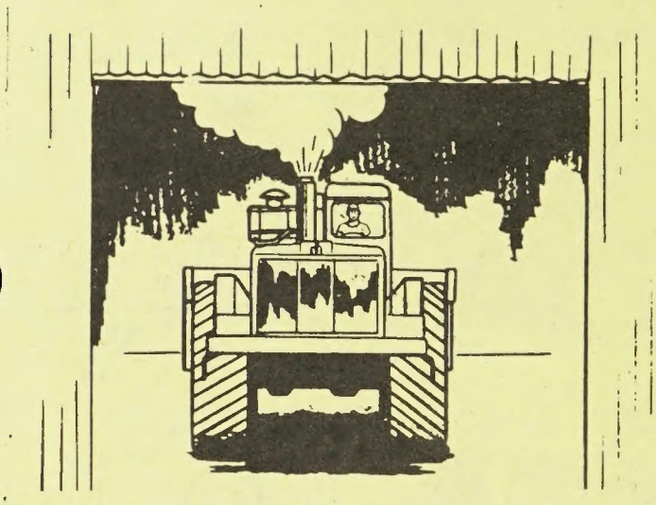
GPO 859-436

REMOVE INJECTION NOZZLES and spray about an ounce of engine lub oil into each cylinder. Crank the engine two or three revolutions. Install new gaskets when replacing injection nozzles.

SERVICE THE AIR CLEANER COMPLETELY, according to instructions in your manual.

REMOVE THE HYDRAULIC RESERVOIR BREATHER and store in a clean carton. Then seal the opening.



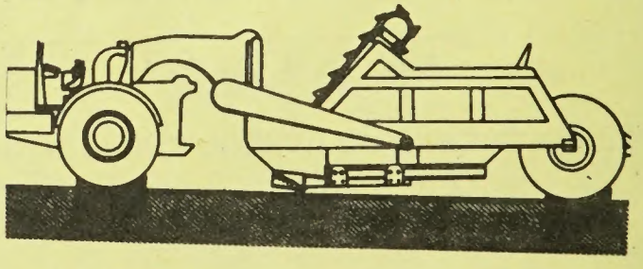


DRAIN OIL FROM FUEL TANKS and fuel systems, but not from injection pump.

DRAIN COOLING SYSTEM and affix a "Radiator Drained" tag. If the machine is to be stored through freezing weather, and only water was used as a coolant, flush with anti-freeze.

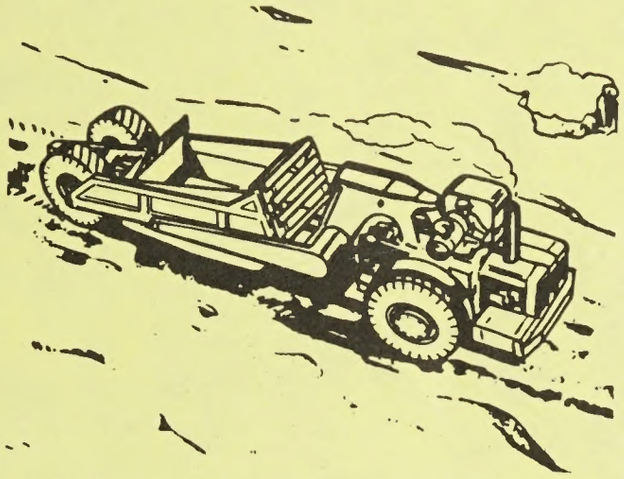
REMOVE VALVE HOUSING COVERS AND FLUSH VALVES, rocker arms and push rods with the specified grade of lube oil. Coat inside of covers before replacing them.

IF THE MACHINE HAS TIRES, REMOVE THEM, or place the machine on blocks so that they are suspended. Deflate and cover the tires.



The three most obvious items on this list will get you into trouble if you don't take care of them. First, the cooling system. We have all heard stories about radiators frozen solid, or guys trying to drive a machine without any coolant at all. Don't let it happen to you. Another easy one that too many of us goof up is battery care. If may not be a very serious problem if you forget about the batteries, but it is embarrassing, and sometimes expensive.

Speaking of expensive items brings up the third potential troublemaker. Tires. If you want the boss to turn purple, let a 50-ton machine sit on its rubber for a few months. That would be expensive.



Poor storage practices cost extra time and money for no reason. Because it's just as easy to do it right--a lot easier when you think about the problems of starting that machine up again.